safety norms of the atomic power plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The Current nuclear power capacity of 3310 MWe will be increased to 7280 MWe progressively by completion of projects under construction. More reactors are also planned to reach a capacity of about 20,000 MWe by the year 2020.

(b) Nuclear fuel has been used in the country since the year 1969 with an excellent safety record. Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPC1L) has recorded 242 reactor years of safe operation. Chernobyl was a Light Water cooled Graphite moderated reactor (LWHR) of sixties vintage which had certain inherent weaknesses. Current reactors including those in India have several advanced safety feature mechanisms, double containment and are totally different in design from Chernobiy type of reactors. Also Indian nuclear power reactors are operated by well-qualified and licensed manpower in accordance with laid down procedures.

(c) The capacity utilization of nuclear power reactors is already above the national average level. In nuclear power plants a motto of 'Safety First — Production Later' is adopted. Robust safety mechanisms and an excellent safety culture are in place. The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) ensures compliance of safety requirements in all aspects of nuclear power plants.

(d) All the issues raised by the Ex-Chairman of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board in respect of nuclear power plant have since been addressed and resolved.

Revision of present system of royalty on coal

†899. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the present system of royalty on coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when a new rate of royalty is likely to be implemented;

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†Original notice of question was received in Hindi.

(d) the details of losses occurred to the State Governments for not carrying out the amendments in the rate of royalty;

(e) whether Government propose to compensate State Governments for this loss; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) A Committee has been constituted on 2.6.2005 to consider revision of rates on royalty on coal and lignite. The Committee has been holding consultations with the stakeholders concerned. Keeping in view the complexities involved, the issue of payment of royalty on coal on *ad-valorem* basis *vs.* tonnage basis has been examined by the Economic Advisory Council (EAC) to the Prime Minister. The recommendations of the Council have been received and the Committee shall take them into consideration before finalizing its report.

(c) The tenure of the Committee is upto 31.12.2005. The Government would be able to take a view in the matter when the report is received.

(d) The Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 provides that the Central Government can enhance the royalty in respect of any mineral not more than once during any period of three years. It is not obligatory on the part of the Central Government to increase the rate of royalty on coal after every three years. The royalty on coal is increased only after taking into consideration the overall economy of the country. Therefore, there is no question of incurring any loss by the State Governments due to non-revision of rate of royalty on coal.

(e) and (f) Do not arise in view of answer given in part (d) of the question.

E-auction for coal

900. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to introduce e-auctions for coal consumers in the core sectors, other than power;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Tariff Commission under the Ministry of Finance, is working out modalities such as pricing mechanisms, etc.;

(C) whether any target has been set by the Ministry of Coal for 2005-06 fore-auctioning; and